GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1325
ANSWERED ON:28.07.2015
Direct Cash Transfer
Panda Shri Baijayant "Jay";Pandey Shri Ravindra Kumar

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Government to move to a Direct Benefit Transfer Scheme as an alternative to the highly subsidized price policy for Public Distribution System (PDS), if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government proposes to introduce the said scheme in the Union Territories on pilot basis; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be extended to all the States indicating the per capita food subsidy being provided presently, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN)

(a) to (c): There are various methods to check leakages and diversion of foodgrains. Direct Transfer of Cash subsidy is one of such options, which has also been discussed in various forums. Its implementation however depends upon readiness of States / Union Territories in terms of digitization and de-duplication of beneficiaries database, seeded with available Aadhaar and bank accounts numbers, and it can be taken up on specific request from States/UTs. For a pilot scheme, interest has been shown by UT of Chandigarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Puducherry and they are making necessary preparations. Further, the decision to extend the scheme to other States will only be taken on willingness and preparedness of the States and on receipt of the feedback from the UTs after piloting of the scheme.

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